

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1876.] VOL. II.

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

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SELECTIONS
FROM THE
VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS
PUBLISHED IN THE PANJAB,
NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES,
OUDH, AND CENTRAL PROVINCES,

Received up to 2nd September, 1876.

POLITICAL.

GENERAL.

The *Aligarh Institute Gazette* of the 25th August speaks in very high terms of the durbar which His Excellency has recently proclaimed as about to be held at Delhi next year, and exhorts the feudatory chiefs to more than usual splendour on the occasion. No efforts should be spared to make the spectacle as grand and imposing, as the occasion itself which it is intended to celebrate is august. This durbar must cast in shade all the durbars that have hitherto been held in India. But at the same time it must be borne in mind that these durbars are not an unmixed good. They have of late become very frequent; no year passes without a durbar. The expenses entailed on the native chiefs are enormous, to say nothing of the inconvenience occasioned by them.

The *Nar-ul-Absar* of the 1st September states that Lord Lytton's minute in the Fuller case has agitated the whole Anglo-Indian community, especially the Anglo-Indian journalists. It is looked upon as an unconstitutional and unjust encroachment on the jurisdiction of the High Court. The

Madras and Calcutta High Courts have espoused the cause of the Allahabad High Court against the Governor-General. The High Court is an imperial or supreme court of law, and therefore ranks with the highest tribunals in England, and is not subject to interference on the part of the Queen herself. But it must not be forgotten that the political administration of India does not resemble that of England. If in England anything goes wrong, the Queen and even her ministry have not to bear the entire burden of blame, but a fair share devolves on the Parliament, and through it on the nation itself at large. But in India the devolution of responsibility is quite different. Here the whole weight rests with the Governor-General and his Council. If any disturbance arises in the administration, from whatever cause, the High Court will not be called to account for it. At the same time it must be borne in mind that the Governor-General has not transgressed the sphere of his power. The supremacy of the High Court in the administration of justice has been intact. No alteration was attempted by His Excellency in the amount of punishment adjudged by the Court to Mr. Fuller. He only took this opportunity, on political considerations, to warn the High Court in general terms of the dangerous consequences of its proceedings. Several cases had of late occurred in which the injured parties were natives, and the offending parties, being Europeans, were acquitted. In order to conciliate the native population, and maintain the reputation of English justice, the Governor-General felt himself obliged to resort to this measure.

The High Court must of course rest its judgment on the evidence before it, but when the Court has strong reasons to suspect that the true facts are quite otherwise than the evidence discloses, there is nothing in the law to debar it from ascertaining them in any way it can. Moreover the law exists for the administration of strict justice, and when it is found defective it should at once be rectified.

At the same time the Court is not necessarily bound to accept the verdict of the jury implicitly ; and herein consists the chief difference between the Indian High Courts and similar Courts in England. This was explicitly announced on one occasion by the Madras High Court, which acted quite in contravention of the verdict of the jury in a case of daceity.

In conclusion it must be noticed that a Judge of the Allahabad High Court has himself publicly acknowledged that juries consisting of Europeans have often given false verdicts in the Court, through national prejudices. This open confession must have not a little displeased the European community, and might have been viewed with disfavour by the other Judges of the same Court.

The *Mutla-i-Nár* of 29th August writes that it was commonly believed that Lord Lytton's minute in the case *Regina versus Fuller* would produce the desired effect upon Europeans, but the sad accident of the 10th August has shaken off this belief. The life of a native is of no more value than that of a wild beast. A native chaukidar sleeping on the *nakákhána* at Husenabad in Lucknow was shot by a British soldier on the 10th August. May drunkenness and insanity, says the editor, ever continue to flourish, that they may be able to rescue Englishmen from difficulty on such occasions.

The *Oudh Akhbár* of 30th August says that India is ringing with joy at the welcome news of the assumption of the title of " Empress of India " by Her Majesty. It is confidently hoped that prosperity will now spread over the whole country. The administration of the country has hitherto been conducted on such intricate and strange principles as were not only unintelligible to the people, but quite opposed to their thoughts and habits ; and hence the necessary consequence has been that measures designed to advance their own good have been ignorantly ascribed by them to the interested motives of Government, and popular complaints

have not been unfrequent. The English Government adopted this line of conduct towards its Indian subjects in pursuance of the usual policy of a conquering nation in its early dealings with the conquered. The rights of the conquered people are not fully recognized till their ability and loyalty have been subjected to a strict ordeal. The British policy in India has been no exception to the rule. As the children of the soil proceeded to give stronger proofs of their attachment to the Government, their foreign rulers admitted them to the advantages of their just and benevolent rule. They have received better treatment since Her Majesty assumed the reins of the Government of India than fell to their lot under the East India Company. The Queen has only consulted their good in making an addition to her titles, which was further warranted by the enormous extent of India, and the splendour and magnificence of her feudatory chiefs in no way inferior to those of kings. Strong hopes are entertained in every quarter that after the termination of the proclaimed durbar at Delhi nothing will be wanting on the part of the Government to gratify the native mind in every way; every cause of complaint that at present exists shall be removed. If the condition of the native population is not ameliorated on the present occasion, they must be supposed to be doomed to distress for ever.

The people of India have long cherished three sanguine wishes—(1) The person to whom the Government of this country is entrusted by England should assume the title of *Shahanshah*, and at the same time make it his permanent abode. They would thus be enabled to represent their just claims without difficulty, and would be saved the trouble and expense of going to England in search of their advantage. The control of the English Parliament also, whose complicated way of working is quite mysterious to the native, would also be done away with. (2) The English officers of Government should also permanently settle down in the country, so that the wide gulf that separates them from their subjects

may be bridged over, and intimate familiarity and sympathy firmly established between the two. (8) The natives should be nominated to posts of trust and responsibility. The assumption of the new title by Her Majesty has been the first step in this direction. The feudatory chiefs of India, distinguished for their devoted loyalty to the British Crown, may now clap their hands with joy. They will now be exalted in rank, and their treaties with the supreme power will be weeded of their strict stipulations and conditions. The common people should also not be neglected on this occasion. They should also partake of the bread and fish of the Government, and be generously dealt with in every way.

The *Shola-i-Tar* of 29th August says that it is unable to understand the stir that is at present made in every quarter for the welfare of India. Is it the real world, it says, that it appears to walk in, or do its ears and eyes deceive it? Wherever it turns, nothing but good news for India greet its ears. See Lord Lytton's resolution on the Fuller case, Mr. Justice Turner's wholesome speech to a recent Allahabad jury, the zealous exertions of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales in behalf of this country on his return home, and the favourable remarks of wise and learned Englishmen, as Professor Monier Williams, &c. Above all must be mentioned the recent proclamation of His Excellency the Viceroy to hold a grand durbar at Delhi in honour of the assumption of the new title by Her Majesty. The editor, after indulging in the high hopes entertained by the people at large from the growing interest taken in Indian affairs by Her Majesty, as unequivocally manifested by the addition of the new title, remarks that the contemplated nomination of natives to the Civil Service, and other measures to improve the material and moral condition of India, are no doubt good as far as they go; but their benefits fail to reach the mass of the people at large. In no way will their distresses be mitigated by elevating few scores of their fellow-countrymen to lucrative posts. What they look forward to is some tangible

ble good which they have been accustomed to value from time immemorial. Abolish some of the taxes, diminish the rate of land revenue, do away with some of the obstacles to admission into the public service, and they will be gratified and will be ready to die for their Empress.

The *Akhbár-i-Am* of 30th August, alluding to an occurrence at Dehra Ismail Khán, in which a dog pined away and died for love of a sheep, which had been its companion, and was killed, regrets to find that such love does not exist among the natives of the country. If this sympathetic feeling inspired them, they would never have been reduced to their present humiliating position, and murdered by *sahib bahádurs* (Europeans) with practical impunity.

The *Khair Khwah-i-Alam* of 25th August asserts the propriety of pecuniary aid to Turkey in its present depressed condition from the Government of India and the people.

The *Urdu Akhbár* of 26th August publishes a version of the letter which Lord Salisbury is supposed to have written to Lord Lytton on the Fuller case. The editor has taken the letter from an English paper, and does not vouch for its authenticity. Its particulars may be thus summed up. The action of Lord Lytton in the Fuller case has met with approval both by the Secretary of State and the English press. Pictures representing Mr. Fuller as a blood-thirsty Englishman cruelly beating a poor native are distributed gratis by lakhs in every thoroughfare of London. This humane action of the Viceroy has considerably endeared him to the English people. If the next European who kills a native is ordered to be hanged the English people would love Lord Lytton more than the Prince of Wales himself, and very likely his term of Vicereignty would be extended by two years. Lord Salisbury also advises Lord Lytton to protect the natives against Englishmen.

The *Urdu Akhbár (Akola)* of 26th August, learning from the *Pioneer* that a commission is about to sit at Hyderabad

to settle the question of the restitution of the Berars to the Nizám, observes that this is not very welcome news to the native public. The sitting of a commission in a native state has come to be associated in the native mind with some wrong or breach of faith on the part of the chief. Accordingly unworthy suspicions will naturally be excited with respect to the conduct of the Nizám. The Government holds the province in question only as a trust from the Nizám for a limited period, and can with no show of reason refuse to restore it to the owner when he demands it. If it actually resorts to the expedient of a commission, it will betray to the world its inward unwillingness to part with a thing which does not rightly belong to it. It is said that this commission will consist of three European officers nominated by the Government of India, three Judges of the Calcutta High Court, and three gentlemen, European or native, nominated by the Nizám, so that the number of English members will be double that of the native. The proceedings of the Baroda commission are well known, although the preponderance of the European element therein was not so great. No weight was vouchsafed to the opinion of the native ingredient. Having had this bitter experience, the natives can hardly afford to indulge in any good hope from the proceedings of the contemplated Hyderabad commission. The Government of India should not again allow itself to be led astray from the right path of justice, but should rather take warning by its former error. Its policy in the Baroda case was challenged both here and in England.

NATIVE STATES.

A Jodhpur correspondent of the *Agra Akhbár*, dated 30th August, complains of the maladministration of all departments in that state, and especially of the criminal and civil courts of law.

The *Nasir-ul-Akhbár* of 1st September, quoting the *Lawrence Gazette*, reports the arrival of a Chinese ambassador in

Nipal, who is said to have been escorted into the Nipal dominions by the Mahrája himself, accompanied by his ministers and grandees, to the number of 500. Rumour is rife in Nipal that the ambassador has come to receive the tribute the Mahrája usually pays to the Chinese Emperor. If this is a fact, the Mahrája must be regarded as blindly following an old custom. This tribute should, in truth, be paid to the Government of India, because his dominions border on those of the latter, and he can also count upon the aid of the latter in times of difficulty. Moreover the Queen has a further right to this tribute, inasmuch as she is the Empress of India, and Nipal is situated within the precincts of India. The editor is surprised to find that the Mahrája of Nipal did not do so much as to pay a visit to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, although the latter was hunting for one month in the Tarai, while, on the contrary, he has received the Chinese envoy with such singular honour! The hill tribes cannot yet be said to stand high in the scale of civilization and enlightenment.

FRONTIER.

The *Koh-i-Nur* of the 26th August says that the Afridis are zealously pushing on their military preparations, so as to be ready for war next winter, under the conviction that they will be attacked by the English forces at that time of the year. They do not seem disposed to accept the terms offered by the Government for a compromise. It is not unlikely that the Akhwand of Swat has promised them aid. He is further said to have ordered the expulsion of British subjects, and officers from the precincts of his dominions.

The same paper notices the arrival in Swat of seven Turks, commissioned by the Amir of Bokhara to the Akhwand. They were received with great honour and distinction by the Akhwand; but the object of their mission is not known.

ADMINISTRATIVE (GENERAL).

The *Rahbar-i-Hind* of 26th August writes on the authority of a reliable source that there is a Commissioner within five

hundred miles of Lahore who treats his native subordinate officials as if they were his bond-slaves. If any of them goes to pay him a visit, he is at once ordered to clear out of the house. Indeed, it must be confessed that on official business the Commissioner condescends to converse with them rather freely. Accordingly they are of opinion that the Indian Legislative Council should enact a law ruling that, on the payment of a certain sum of money in stamps, any one of them will be allowed to have free access to the Commissioner. The editor fails to see any very great distinction existing between European and native public officers; all the distinction is actually confined to this, that the one is a superior, and the other an inferior or subordinate officer. It is therefore a matter of urgent necessity that the one should not behave ill towards the other. Sir Henry Davies should learn from the conduct of Lord Lytton (in the Fuller case) that a European as well as a native is liable to punishment for misbehaviour. If the Panjab Government is really shrewd and penetrating, it will at once be able to detect the officer complained against.

The same paper, adverting to the rules recently published in the *North-Western Provinces Government Gazette*, as to the fees chargeable for serving and executing processes issued by the civil and revenue courts, remarks that they entail increased expenditure on the litigants and menace them with utter ruin. As they have rendered the courts of law inaccessible to the poor, who can ill-afford to pay the legal expenses prescribed by them, the door of justice may be said to be virtually shut against them. The Government should make justice as cheap as possible, so that all its subjects, the rich and the poor, may be enabled to partake of its advantages.

The *Aligarh Institute Gazette* of 25th August reports that a Judge of the Madras Presidency sentenced a man named Múnia to transportation for life for stealing property to the value of four annas. The Judge is believed to have inflicted

this extreme punishment on the criminal under the impression that he would not mend his conduct, as he had before been convicted of theft four or five times. It is beyond question that the punishment was quite disproportionate to the crime, and the Judge had no valid reason to despair of the man's reform. Instances are not wanting in London of criminals who have been convicted of one and the same crime seventy times, yet the enlightened Judges there have not thought them worthy of such hard punishment. The law justly allows to Judges discretionary powers of heavier penalties in exceptional cases, inasmuch as punishment is meant to be deterrent; but these powers should be exercised within certain limits, determined so as to prevent abuse.

The *Rahbar-i-Hind* of 29th August, in criticizing the above case, observes that the British rule in India, good as it is, is not altogether free from evil. Its broad principles of justice are indeed acceptable to the public at large, but the conduct of those who are entrusted with its administration is far from what it ought to be. An Englishman guilty of murder can evade the just penalty of the law by pleading some worthless excuse, while a native guilty of a very trifling offence is liable to a punishment which the law provides for a most heinous crime. Here is an English Judge who inflicts a nominal fine on a murderer belonging to his race, and transports for life a native convicted of stealing four annas.

The *Narwal-Absar* of 1st September writes that a European gentleman ran his carriage against a heap of bricks collected by the municipal committee by the side of a road in Poona, and accordingly had his conveyance upset. The gentleman lost one of his legs in the accident. He sued for damages in the Court and obtained a decree for Rs. 16,000 against the municipality. Here is a curious instance, says the editor, illustrating the wide difference between merit and demerit. The former makes its possessor invaluable; the latter, worthless,—of no more account than a wild boar.

A leg of a European is worth Rs. 16,000, and the life of a
native only Rs. 30.

A correspondent of the *Tehzih-i-Kashmir*, dated 26th August, writing from Aimanábád, says that the good intentions of Her Majesty's Government to promote the prosperity and welfare of her Indian subjects are unfortunately frustrated by the evil conduct of her officers, both European and native. They knowingly disregard the law, and behave unlawfully. An Assistant Magistrate placed a shoe on the head of a mukhtar. The native officials do not scruple to abuse the litigants in open court. Their corruption, favouritism, and indirect practices are too notorious to require any remarks. Here are two instances in point which cannot be explained on any other supposition. In a recent case at Gujránwála, which came up before a Government official of the Sayyid class, the contending parties agreed to abide by the judgment of certain arbitrators nominated by themselves. The Sayyid also readily accepted this proposal. The arbitrators gave their verdict in favour of the defendant, which transported the Sayyid into an ecstacy of rage. He would have thrown them into prison or condemned them to the scaffold if he could. He then decided the case in his own way ; but the opinion of the arbitrators was afterwards upheld by the appellate court.

The officer, adds the editor, who is found guilty of wilful neglect, and whose judgment is reversed by the superior court on appeal, should be obliged to make good the expenses incurred by the appellant.

In the same district a case of culpable homicide lately occurred among the Gujára tribe ; but the Court, despite the overwhelming evidence against the murderer, acquitted him. This act of injustice has caused agitation in the whole native community.

The *Patiala Akhbár*, dated 28th August, republishes an article from the *Scientific Society Gazette* to the effect that

The substitution of Kaithi in the place of Urdu by the Chief Commissioner of Oudh has met with disapproval by the people.

The *Kashi Patrika* of 31st idem regrets to notice that the Chief Commissioner of Oudh has ordered the substitution of Kaithi for Hindi in the Government schools, Kaithi being much more objectionable.

The *Rahbar-i-Hind* of 26th August, in reference to the vast increase in the value of immovable property transferred during the last year, as shown by the Government review of the Panjab Registration Report for 1875-76, observes that it is entirely due to the distressed circumstances of the zemindars. The zemindars can no longer sustain the heavy burden of the revenue tax, and their estates are consequently passing into the hands of Mâhâjans. It is true that the land-tax falls upon the whole community, and not upon the classes immediately connected with land alone, inasmuch as the value of grain is proportionately enhanced; yet at the same time it cannot be controverted that the latter have to bear the brunt. The condition of the zemindar is truly deplorable, and requires the serious attention of the Government. One of the several reasons mentioned by the Inspector-General of Registration to account for the decrease of registrations is that men generally attach greater weight to the evidence of oral than to documentary evidence.

This is unquestionably a valid reason. It is by no means a rare occurrence that forged documents are registered through the dishonesty of witnesses in registry offices. Registrars should be very cautious and scrupulous in accepting the testimony of witnesses in the matter of identification.

The editor also concurs in the view expressed by the Panjab Government that the Inspector-General of Registration has very little office work, and that therefore he should spend the greater part of his time on inspection.

The *Oudh Akbar* of 27th August, in a long editorial headed "The cultivators of the North-Western Provinces," expatiates upon the miseries of the agricultural classes. Their condition has long been very pitiable, and the zemindars and mahajans have been fattening on their labours, till the fall in the value of grain since last year filled the cup of their misfortunes to the brim, and reduced them to the verge of starvation. The recent settlement operations in these provinces have also played a very important part in effecting the ruin, not only of the tenants, but of the zemindars also. The settlement has been a real plague among these two classes of the community; it has ruined no less than 80 per cent. of the zemindars. The enhanced amount of revenue exacted by the Government leaves very little to the zemindar and the cultivator. To add to their misfortune, the land from various reasons is steadily falling off in productive quality; and the necessary consequence of these combined evils is that the landed classes are running deeper and deeper into debt. Upon the condition of these classes the prosperity of the country mainly depends, and it is therefore incumbent upon the Government to endeavour to avert the ruin which threatens ere long to overwhelm them. The revenue as fixed by the settlement officer should not be looked upon by the Government as something permanently settled, and exempt from any alteration. The comparative cheapness of grain at the present time has reduced the gross produce fixed by the settlement officer as the due of the zemindar from cultivators to half of its original value. The law accords a right to the cultivator to claim a diminution of his rent in the event of a decrease in the produce beyond a certain limit. The editor contends that the Government should in turn extend this privilege to the zemindar. When the income of the zemindar is greatly affected by any cause, as at present by the fall in the value of grain, the Government should lessen its demand proportionately. In its dealings with the people of this country

It should never be forgotten that they have not yet made sufficient advances in civilization to set much value on sanitary improvement, increased facilities for travelling and traffic, &c., so long as they do not feel some material and tangible good rendered them by the State. None the less is it the interest of the State itself that its subjects should not be impoverished and discontented.

RAILWAY.

The *Rahbar-i-Hind* of the 29th August gives the particulars of a disastrous accident on the Panjáb Railway at Jhelam. An engine going from the Kharián station ran into another, in spite of repeated danger-signals. The engines were seriously damaged and several lives lost. The driver is supposed to have been drunk at the time. Such accidents are entirely due to the carelessness and insubordination of English engine-drivers and guards, and it is a matter of deep regret that the Panjáb Government does not appoint able natives in place of Europeans, in order to prevent these occurrences in future.

The *Matlá-i-Nír* of the 29th August, on the authority of his Cawnpore correspondent, complains that about twenty-five passengers who could not obtain tickets on the 17th August at the Cawnpore railway station, and took shelter in the waiting-room from the rain that was falling at the time, were driven out by the railway police. The editor sees no harm in allowing passengers to rest in railway waiting-rooms for a short time in the day, if not for the whole night.

LOCAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

The *Khair Khwah-i-Hindustán* of the 26th August bitterly denounces the collapse of native commerce and manufactures. It is a matter of deep regret that trade and manufacture, professions honourable in themselves, and the only sources of the material progress of a country, have fallen into disfavour with the people of India. Government service, which is no

less than a sort of bondage, is held the common and honourable calling of the day, after acquiring a smattering of English or Vernaculars. But Government cannot of course provide employment for all the daily multiplying candidates; and therefore those who are disappointed must either learn *ab initio* some profession as a means of earning a livelihood, or must necessarily starve. So long as natives do not engage in trade, and try to manufacture all those articles for the supply of which they now depend on foreign countries, India will never prosper.

The *Rahbár-i-Hind* of 29th August notices, on the authority of its Lahore correspondent, an unbecoming act of the Revd. Mr. Newton. The reverend gentleman at the time of preaching put a wrong interpretation on certain verses of the Korán. His Muhammadan audience pointed out his mistake, on which he got annoyed, and dashing the book against the ground, trampled it under foot, in order to irritate them. He further stigmatised both the Korán and their prophet as false.

The editor, making the above the text for his remarks, observes that the notorious way in which the Christian missionaries publicly abuse every other religion is very reprehensible and fraught with danger to the State. The Government being the professor of the same creed, their acts are naturally and justly ascribed to its instigation, or at least connivance, by the ignorant public. They should be asked to preach in churches, and not in thoroughfares. They should also confine their preaching to the exposition of their own tenets, and should not enter upon the denunciation of other religious systems of belief. The editor regrets to find that an English gentleman of Mr. Newton's culture and religious turn of mind could be guilty of such an act; and, drawing the attention of the Government to it, advises the Muhammadans to seek redress by law, in order to appease the public indignation.

LIST OF PAPERS EXAMINED.

NAME.				DATE.
	June	July.	August.	
Nyer-i-Akbár,	1876. 22nd
Mukhran-ul-Ulum,	
Ahal Prakash,	
Mukib-i-Hind,	15th
Akhbár-i-'Alam,	17th
Meerut Gazette,	19th
Marwar Gazette,	21st
Rohilkhand Akhbár,	23rd
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Khair Khwah-i-Alam,	25th
Louh-i-Mahfuz,	25th
Social Science Congress Gazette,	25th
Anguman-i-Panjab,	25th
Atigash Institute Gazette,	25th
Adib-i-Alam,	25th
Meerut Gazette,	26th
Koh-i-Nér,	26th
Urdu Akhbár (Akola),	26th
Rahbar-i-Hind,	26th
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Gwalior Gazette,	27th
Lama-i-Nár,	27th
Oudh Akhbár,	27th
Karnamah,	28th
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Patiala Akhbar,	28th
Sadiq-ul-Akhbár,	28th
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Lytton Gazette,	28th
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Lawrence Gazette,	29th
Rahbar-i-Hind,	29th
Nayar-i-Azam,	30th
Akhbár-i-Am,	30th

LIST OF PAPERS EXAMINED.

NAME.				DATE.
<i>Shams-ul-Akhbár,</i>	...	...	...
<i>Oudh Akhbár,</i>	...	...	...	" 30th
<i>Rohilkhand Akhbár,</i>	...	...	...	" 30th
<i>Agra Akhbár,</i>	...	...	...	" 30th
<i>Kashi Patrika,</i>	...	...	...	" 31st
<i>Táj-ul-Akhbár,</i>	...	...	...	" 31st
<i>Nur-i-Afshan,</i>	...	...	...	" 31st
<i>Nár-ul-Absar,</i>	...	...	...	September 1st
<i>Nasir-ul-Akhbár,</i>	...	...	...	" 1st
<i>Mahar-i-Durakhshán,</i>	...	...	...	" 1st
<i>Násir-ul-Islám,</i>	...	...	...	" 1st
<i>Oudh Akhbár,</i>	" 1st

PRIYA DAS,

Offg. Govt. Reporter, Vernacular Press, Upper India.

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SECRETARY OF STATE

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